



MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

STATE OF MAINE

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on April 11, 2007, at the Burton M. Cross State Office Building, ATM Room 103, Augusta, the following members present: Chair James Carignan; Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Jean Gulliver, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, Ann Weisleder, and Jack Norris. Excused: Joyce McPhetres

Also present were: Deputy Commissioner Angela Faherty; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, Support Systems Team; Scott Brown, AIA, Director of School Facilities; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Janet Tockman, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the January 10 and February 20, 2007, minutes as written.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION, SAD #6, BUXTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Statement of Fact: The SAD #6 Buxton school construction project was number 2 on the 2004-2005 Special Priority List. Buxton is one of the municipalities in SAD #6 which is one of the fastest growing units in Maine.

This project consolidates schools in Buxton and brings all Buxton elementary students to one site. At present, they are in 7 schools on 3 different sites. One of the schools that will be abandoned (the Eliza Libby School) will be used for central office services. The Jack Memorial School will be used for alternative educational services and adult education. The Hanson School will no longer be used for educational purposes, and the Jewett School will be used to house pre-kindergarten for one-half the District's 4-year olds and a wing dedicated to special education. The Jewett School is on the same site as the proposed new elementary school.

The new school is designed to house 850 students, kindergarten through grade 5. The District has met all requirements from site approval through educational specifications, space utilization, and program review.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Project Information:

Project: SAD #6 New Elementary School

Superintendent: Suzanne Lukas

Principal: Donald Gnecco, Ed.D.

Architect: Jeff Larimer, Harriman Associates

Superintendent Lukas has provided the following project description statement:

The new Buxton Elementary School building project comes to our communities at precisely the right time. SAD# 6 is a large, rural school district that sprawls across five towns in the Sebago Lakes area of Maine. The district is coping with delivery of services to nine small, outdated elementary schools. With a projected increase in student enrollment of 30% in the town of Buxton over the next 10 years, the construction of a new, modern, well-planned facility will enable us to retire a 90-year-old school, utilize an undersized school for necessary administrative space and reuse two facilities for program growth.

The new Buxton Elementary School will alleviate the overcrowding that presently exists in all of the Buxton schools. Classrooms will be designed to address the developmental needs of young children. We will retire eight portable classrooms. In addition, this new facility will allow students to enjoy core facilities such as the library, computer lab, cafeteria and gymnasium, without having to travel to another building or portable classroom.

The district has suffered from a deficiency in new technologies. The new school will be designed as a state of the art facility, bringing modern technology into the hands of teachers and students. Smart boards, projections systems, ready access to computers and the internet, as well as audio enhancement in classrooms will support student learning. State of the art surveillance and security systems will ensure student safety. An updated telephone system will allow improved communication with staff and parents.

This building project will open up space for our new Family Literacy Program and will allow us to continue to offer our Title I services without having to house them in portable classrooms. We will also be able to reinstate our preschool programming that was curtailed several years ago because space was no longer available.

The grounds surrounding the new school will be carefully planned to address safety concerns, bus and car traffic patterns, outdoor education, play fields for sports and

recreation. Parking will be carefully located. The architectural plans for the building are respectful of the environment and the rural nature of the community. This school will truly be central to the Buxton community and will continue a tradition of providing high quality education in a location where students have been attending school for nearly a century.

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$28,199,641

Local Only Cost (no State participation): \$1,499,134

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$26,580,507

Construction Committee Recommendation: The Construction Committee met on April 3, 2007, and voted unanimously to send this exhibit to the State Board of Education for consideration with an approval recommendation.

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to SAD #6 for an elementary school in Buxton, Maine

Moved by Ellie Multer, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted to grant concept approval to SAD #6 for an elementary school in Buxton, Maine.

MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION; WESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Statement of Fact: The Westbrook middle school project was rated number 9 on the 2004-2005 Special Priority List. The project was initially scheduled for Concept Approval in 2008; however, when the Portland project slipped behind, Westbrook, based upon its progress to date, was able to fill the Portland position.

The project will replace Wescott Middle School which is a very poor learning environment because of its open concept design and its 11 modular classrooms. The project began very slowly because of a very complex site analysis that led to a new building rather than a renovation-addition. All information related to the decision to build new is on file with the Department of Education.

The new school is very close to Westbrook's high school, vocational school, and an elementary school which will enhance educational opportunities. If successful at the local level, the new school will also house a locally funded 1,000 seat auditorium.

The building has been designed to High Performance standards and may be LEED certified.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Project Information:

Project: Westbrook Middle School
Superintendent: Stan Sawyer
Principals: Brian Mazjanis
Architect: Dan Cecil, Harriman Associates

Superintendent Sawyer has provided the following project description statement:

The new Westbrook Middle School will serve students in grades 6 through grade 8. This project will replace an existing facility that is over 30 years old and that was built as an “open concept” school. Currently, the Wescott Junior High School houses 574 students. The existing facility includes 6 modular buildings that house 11 classrooms. Due to the nature of these classrooms over 60 percent of the Wescott students attend at least one class or several classes in one of these portable units.

The main objective of the major capital improvement project is to have a facility that will allow all of the students to be housed under one roof. Currently, students are moving from the main facility to classes that are housed in portable classrooms. Having all of the classes within a facility will provide for better educational programming, much better student safety and security, and greater integration of curriculum. In several cases teachers in the same curriculum areas are not located in adjacent or even proximate spaces. Relocating these classes to address this issue only creates similar problems for other teaching and curriculum areas.

Given the disjointed nature of the classrooms and programs the effectiveness of the student instruction has been diminished. The Westbrook School Department has embraced the concept of “Learning Communities” and has found that this scattering has impacted on the staff’s ability to spontaneously interact regarding students and programming. The Westbrook School Department teaching staff is one of the best and most professional. For the staff, trying to provide the “Best Education for All Students” under these conditions requires a considerable amount of energy being focused on overcoming the facility problems and greatly impacts on the progress that they could be making with students.

Students at the Wescott Junior High School are also trying to produce their best work in a facility that does not support their efforts. The “open concept”, despite being compartmentalized as best as possible, poses many problems that impact the learning process. For many of the classrooms the access into and out of the learning spaces is directly through or from another learning space. Students are constantly submitted to distractions from adjacent classrooms or by the movement of student within or between learning spaces.

The new facility will provide the infrastructure to facilitate many of the new initiatives. Currently, the facility does not have sufficient electrical capacity to provide adequate power for the MLTI hardware. Many of the classrooms are combined on one lighting circuit. When one teacher needs to darken a classroom to use an overhead projector, other classroom areas will be darkened as well because they share one light switch and light fixtures.

In addition, the Wescott site is shared with the Congin Elementary School. These two schools share a site that is 18 acres serving about 1,100 students and staff. Presently, there are a minimal number of site improvements to support the educational programs at both schools and any expansion would require a large investment of resources because of the complexity of the site.

The Wescott Junior High School and Congin Elementary School site is located at the intersection of Bridge Street and Cumberland Street, one of the busiest intersections in the City of Westbrook. Given the high volume of traffic this presents an ongoing safety issue for students at both schools. The City of Westbrook Fire Department has requested another means of access to the site and through the site location process we have not been able to locate any available land to accommodate this.

The new site and facility will provide a green facility that will model appropriate environmentally sound design, construction techniques and operations. The site will provide much needed space to support our educational programming and recreational activities for students and the larger community.

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$33,673,796

Local Only Cost (no State participation): \$7,598,109

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$120,000

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$25,955,687

Construction Committee Recommendation: The Construction Committee met on April 3, 2007, and voted unanimously to send this exhibit to the State Board of Education for consideration with an approval recommendation.

Commissioner Recommendation: The Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Westbrook School Department for a middle school in Westbrook, Maine

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted to grant concept approval to the Westbrook School Department for a middle school in Westbrook, Maine.

CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE AT FORT KENT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Background: During its August 10, 2006, meeting the Board granted conditional approval from spring 2005 to spring 2007 and required the unit to develop and submit an interim report to the Commissioner of Education no later than February 15, 2007. The interim report was to be limited to the unit's responses to the team's recommendations associated with Standards One – *Initial Teacher Candidate Performance* and Standard Two – *Assessment System and Unit Evaluation*. The required Interim Report has been received from UMFK program administration and was distributed to the State Board of Education during the March 14, 2007 meeting. Following review of the interim report a recommendation was to be made to the Board as to whether the unit's approval should be extended through spring 2010.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the UMFK Interim Report and extend the period of State program approval to spring 2010.

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted to accept the University of Maine at Fort Kent Interim Report and extend the period of State program approval to spring 2010.

INITIATION OF MAINE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT (APA) FOR CHAPTER 13: QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Background: Praxis II tests and test scores have been added to the chart for pre-K early childhood, blind, health, theater, and PLT. A replacement Praxis II test and test score have been added to the chart for pre-K teacher of students with disabilities. There will be a period of one year during which the pre-K teacher of students with disabilities endorsement allows a person to meet either the current (Test Code 0353) or the new (Test Code 0690) PRAXIS II exam.

Educators holding a valid comparable certificate from another state will not be required to meet the PPST or PLT test requirements. Chapter 13 has been amended accordingly.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve proceeding with rulemaking regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 13 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted to approve proceeding with rulemaking regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 13 in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act (APA). In addition the Board wishes to change the original recommendation for the qualifying score on the Praxis II for Theater endorsement from 530 to 560, and in lieu of a public hearing a 30 day comment period will be held.

UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE APPROVAL STATUS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT BOTH THE INITIAL AND ADVANCED LEVELS

Background: A joint State and National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) program approval/accreditation visit to the University of Maine was conducted November 4 - 9, 2005, for the purpose of reviewing the professional educator preparation programs offered by the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).

- Following the on-site visit a State team report was prepared which included team findings resulting from the application of both State and NCATE standards. The report included commendations, recommendations, and a recommendation that State program approval be granted to the University of Maine CEHD. The report was distributed to the State Board during its February 15, 2006 meeting with a note that action would be called for following notification of NCATE's accreditation decision.
- The NCATE Unit Accrediting Board met in April, 2006 and rendered its accreditation decision in which it was determined that the University of Maine CEHD met all NCATE standards except Standard 4 - Diversity. This accreditation decision overturned the NCATE Board of Examiners Report in which the University of Maine's CHED was found to have met all standards – albeit with a new and two continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity (see D. 1 – Pgs. 4-8 – Document excerpt from the University of Maine 2006 NCATE BOE Report -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office).
- During the May 10, 2006, meeting the Board was asked to accept, for consideration, the State team report, the NCATE program accreditation team report, and the Unit Accrediting Board notice of continuing accreditation report. Consideration of these reports, along with a recommendation for State program approval, was to appear as an agenda item for the July 12, 2006 meeting of the Board (see D. 2 – Pg. 10 - May 10, 2006 Board exhibit - attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office).
- During the July 12, 2006 meeting the Board decided not to act on the proposed exhibit (see D. 3 – Pg. 11 - July 12, 2006 Board exhibit - attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office) and decided to table any further state program approval consideration and requested receipt of documentation concerning the University of Maine's CEHD appeal of the Unit Accrediting Board's decision. Such documentation was due for submission to NCATE in October.
- [It should also be noted that during this same meeting the Board accepted the report of the University of Maine at Presque Isle program approval team and granted conditional approval status. UMPI program administration is required

to submit an interim report in which the team's recommendations are fully addressed by December 31, 2008 (see D. 4- Pg. 12 – July 12, 2006 Board exhibit -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office). The UMPI team report found that Standard 4 – Diversity was met and that holistically a good-faith effort was being made to address the diversity indicators.]

- During the December 13, 2006 meeting the Board agreed to receive documentation from both the CEHD and NCATE regarding the College's accreditation status/issues (see D. 5 – Pg. 13 - December 13, 2006 Board exhibit -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office). These materials included the College's appeal documentation; it was noted that the appeal would not likely be acted upon until mid-April 2007. In the meantime, it was decided that the Board would discuss fully, in (a) subsequent workshop session(s), its obligations, if any, as relates to the Maine-NCATE State Partnership Agreement as well as the Board's explicit expectations as to how Maine's educator preparation programs are to meet Standard 4 – Diversity in the future.

Additional Background:

- During the May 14, 2003 meeting the Board voted to approve the University of Maine at Farmington's professional educator programs (see D. 6 – Pgs. 14-15 – May 14, 2003 Board exhibit -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office). In the NCATE Board of Examiners Report the University of Maine at Farmington's College of Education Health and Rehabilitation was found to have met all standards – albeit with two new and one continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity (see D. 7 - Pgs. 16-22 - Document excerpt from the University of Maine at Farmington 2002 NCATE Report -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office).
- During the November 13, 2002 meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve the University of Southern Maine's professional educator programs (see D. 8 – Pgs. 23-24 - November 13, 2002 Board exhibit -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office). In the Board of Examiners Report the University of Southern Maine's College of Education and Human Development was found to have met all standards – albeit with two new and one continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity (see D. 9 – Pgs. 25-25.3 - Document excerpt from the University of Southern Maine 2002 NCATE Report -- attachment on file with the State Board of Education Office).

Recommendation: Given the Board's recent state program approval decisions, which have followed consideration of review team reports where new and continuing areas for improvement regarding compliance with Standard 4 – Diversity have been cited, it is recommended that the State Board of Education grant state approval to the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development educator preparation programs. The period of approval would be from fall 2005 through fall 2012.

Jean stepped way at 2:40 PM

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and voted six in favor to grant state approval to the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development educator preparation programs. The period of approval would be from fall 2005 through fall 2012.

Jean returned 2:42 pm

MOVED by Jean Gulliver, seconded by Ann Weisleder, and unanimously voted to direct the chair of the Board with assistance from the Harry Osgood's to draft a letter to the University of Maine advising them of the Board's desire to clarify it's understanding of NCATE's Standard 4 – Diversity. It is further understood that the University of Maine is willing and committed to providing periodic updates of its progress in meeting NCATE's, Standard 4 – Diversity. In addition, the Board, Harry Osgood, and the Certification Sub Committee will convene a stakeholder group to work out the details of the process.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CARL P. PERKINS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006 STATE TRANSITION PLAN

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and voted six in favor with one member abstaining (Ellie Multer) to support the Carl P. Perkins Career & Technical Education Act of 2006 State Transition Plan.

CONSIDERATION OF MAINE STATE STANDARDS FOR SERVICE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Jean Gulliver and voted six in favor with one member abstaining (Ellie Multer) to approve the Maine State Standards for Service for Student with Special Needs.

MOVED by Ann Weisleder, seconded by Jean Gulliver, and unanimously voted by those present to add to the Board's Agenda the consideration of the proposed Mission Statement.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the State Board is to provide policy leadership that promotes a Maine public school system whose graduates will have the skills and knowledge to be college-ready, career-ready, and citizenship-ready.

To fulfill this mission and its statutory requirement, the State Board of Education provides direction to the Executive and Legislative branches of state government.

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Jean Gulliver and unanimously voted by those present to accept the revised Mission Statement.

MOVED by Janet Tockman, seconded by Jean Gulliver and unanimously voted to establish the Nomination Committee consisting of Joyce McPhetres, Janet Tockman, and Jack Norris.

Jean left meeting at 3:12 PM

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- That he will be meeting with Fran Rudolph and an individual from MYAC on April 12 to discuss and seek their assistance with having student representation on the Board.
- That he has been invited to address the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce to discuss the various regionalization proposals.
- That he attended the Teacher of the Year (TOY) Ceremony held at the Hall of Flags on April 4, 2007.
- That he will be attending a meeting of the social studies professional development group which is trying to advance civic education in Maine.

REPORTS:

Ellie Multer:

- That she was invited to tour a school of the future in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The school is heavily supported by the Gates Foundation, installed with the latest technology, and designed to focus on students. The school is located in an economically deprived area and the students who attend the school care a great deal about the school, and the school is noted as caring for the kids. Students who attend the school essentially live in the neighborhood and make up 75% of the total enrollment. Shirley Grover is the current superintendent and was a superintendent for the Scarborough School District in Maine.
- That she participated as a member of NASBE's Nominating Committee. The Committee then forwarded two names to be considered for the position of president elect. Unfortunately, one of the individuals withdrew his name due to the lack of support by his state governor. This is an issue and the Committee will be holding a conference call to discuss the matter.

Phil Dionne:

- That he continues to participate on the Essential Programs and Services Career & Technical Education (CTE) Committee, which is working to bring forth a recommendation on how to fit CTE in the EPS formula.

- That on April 11 he will be attending a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Strategic Planning hearing.
- That he attended the NASBE Governmental Affairs meeting and the Legislative Conference in March. Kim Oliver, National Teacher of the Year, gave the keynote address during the Legislative Conference. Angela Faherty also attended the Legislative Conference. He and Angela visited the U.S. Department of Education where they heard Secretary Spellings' speech involving No Child Left Behind (NCLB). During their stay in Washington DC, he and Angela met with Senator Snowe and Representative Allen's aides to discuss the progress of the reauthorization of NCLB.

ADJOURNMENT:

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the April 11, 2007, meeting at 3:45 PM.